

day that we delay is another day that workers would not get transparent financial information on their pension plans. Each day we delay is another day that benefit protections for divorced and surviving spouses aren't made.

Each day that we delay is another day that many of our Nation's airline employees must wait to see if Congress will provide their industry the relief that will allow them to keep their pensions.

The only thing preventing us from appointing conferees is an agreement on the size of the Senate's delegation. The majority leader insisted on limiting the delegation to 12 Members, 7 Republicans and 5 Democrats.

We agree with the two-vote margin. We don't like it, but we agree.

We believe that limiting the number of Democrats to five unnecessarily shortchanges not only Democrats but the entire Senate of the expertise that will prove successful in reaching agreement with the House of Representatives on a bill that can attract a strong majority of support in the Senate.

I repeat. This is not a Senate Republican conference, it is a Senate conference.

We are not contesting the Republicans' desire to have a two-vote advantage when we get to conference, but we believe it is important to have each committee adequately represented.

The majority leader has offered to expand the delegation by one but only if he gets two additional Republican conferees. He said: I will give you one Democrat, but I want two. That is the 9-to-6 ridiculous proposal that has been made. It doesn't have to be 7 to 5. It can be 8 to 6, it can be 9 to 7. I have no problem in selecting people to go on the conference. I certainly don't think it should affect the majority leader. If he doesn't like 8 to 6, let him put another Senator on. Have it 9 to 7.

All we are asking is that a sufficient number of conference, conferees are appointed to the conference. Having 14 conferees in the ratio of 8 to 6 gives the Senate the best opportunity to bring back a bill from conference that will garner support from the Senate.

Let the RECORD be very clear. Democrats have worked closely with our Republican colleagues every step of the way on this legislation. The result has been a very strong bipartisan bill.

I hope that the majority leader will consider his opposition to our request so we can move forward with this conference.

Together, we can improve our Nation's pension system and make America a better place.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

USA PATRIOT ACT ADDITIONAL REAUTHORIZING AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2006

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 2271, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows.

A bill (S. 2271) to clarify that individuals who receive FISA orders can challenge non-disclosure requirements, that individuals who receive national security letters are not required to disclose the name of their attorney, that libraries are not wire or electronic communication service providers unless they provide specific services, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Frist amendment No. 2895, to establish the enactment date of the act.

Frist amendment No. 2896 (to amendment No. 2895), of a perfecting nature.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time between now and 10 a.m. will be equally divided.

Who seeks time?

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CRAPO. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VITTER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

All time has expired.

The question now is on agreeing to the Frist amendment numbered 2896.

The amendment (No. 2896) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now is on agreeing to the Frist amendment numbered 2895, as amended.

The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 81, nays 18, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 24 Leg.]

YEAS—81

Alexander	Collins	Hutchinson
Allard	Conrad	Inhofe
Allen	Cornyn	Isakson
Baucus	Craig	Johnson
Bayh	Crapo	Kennedy
Bennett	Dayton	Kerry
Biden	DeMint	Kohl
Bond	DeWine	Kyl
Boxer	Dole	Landrieu
Brownback	Domenici	Lautenberg
Bunning	Dorgan	Leahy
Burns	Ensign	Lincoln
Burr	Enzi	Lott
Carper	Feinstein	Lugar
Chafee	Frist	Martinez
Chambliss	Graham	McCain
Clinton	Grassley	McConnell
Coburn	Gregg	Mikulski
Cochran	Hagel	Murkowski
Coleman	Hatch	Nelson (FL)

Nelson (NE)
Pryor
Roberts
Salazar
Santorum
Sarbanes
Schumer

Sessions
Shelby
Smith
Snowe
Specter
Stabenow
Stevens

Sununu
Talent
Thomas
Thune
Vitter
Voinovich
Warner

NAYS—18

Akaka
Bingaman
Byrd
Cantwell
Dodd
Durbin

Feingold
Harkin
Jeffords
Levin
Lieberman
Menendez

Murray
Obama
Reed
Reid
Rockefeller
Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

Inouye

The amendment (No. 2895) was agreed to.

JOINT MEETING OF THE TWO HOUSES—ADDRESS BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF ITALY

RECESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. And under the previous order, the Senate will stand in recess until 12 noon for a joint meeting of Congress.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10:42 a.m., took a recess, and the Senate, preceded by the Assistant Sergeant at Arms Lynne Halbrooks, the Secretary of the Senate, Emily J. Reynolds, and the Vice President of the United States, RICHARD B. CHENEY, proceeded to the Hall of the House of Representatives to hear an address delivered by the Honorable Silvio Berlusconi, Prime Minister of the Republic of Italy.

(The address delivered by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Italy to the joint meeting of the two Houses of Congress is printed in the proceedings of the House of Representatives in today's RECORD.)

At 12:01 p.m., the Senate reassembled and was called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. MURKOWSKI.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

USA PATRIOT ACT ADDITIONAL REAUTHORIZING AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2006—Continued

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that following the passage vote, the Senate vote on the motion to proceed to the motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on the conference report to accompany H.R. 3199; I further ask consent that if the motion to proceed is agreed to, the Senate vote immediately on the motion to reconsider and, if agreed to, then the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the conference report.